

# THE MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2022

Present: Mr Simon Duffy (Chair)  
Mr Sean Anstee  
Ms Evelyn Asante Mensah  
Professor Tim Brennan  
Ms Rowena Burns  
Professor Darren Dancey  
Mrs Janet Dawson  
Mr Carlo Frondaroli  
Mr Mohammad Habeebullah  
Dr Hannah Holmes  
Ms Hanifa Maryam  
Ms Shrutisha Morris  
Professor Malcolm Press  
Mr Mark St John Qualter  
Ms Karen Varty

In attendance: Ms Pam Aspden (Head of Governance and Secretariat)  
Professor Steve Decent (Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor)  
Mr Andrew Hewett (Director of Finance)  
Professor Karen Moore (Chief Operating Officer and Clerk to Board)  
Dr Justine Daniels (Director of RKE) for minute 2009  
Professor Richard Greene (Pro-Vice-Chancellor RKE) for minute 2009  
Mr David Harmes (Assistant Director of Information Systems and Digital Services (Strategy and Projects)) for minute 2011  
Ms Pam Flynn (Chief People Officer) for minute 2012  
Professor Jenny Watling (Pro-Vice-Chancellor International) for minute 2012

#### **2006 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Dr Hannah Holmes, new Staff Governor, was welcomed to her first meeting of the Board.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Philippa Anderson, Dr David Birch, Mr Andrew Heyn, Ms Letitia Nicole Jones and Mr Miles Rothbury.

#### **2007 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Board members were invited to declare any possible conflicts of interest on any matters being discussed at today's meeting. A declaration was received from Mr Mohammad Habeebullah in relation to minute 2013, Board Membership.

## **2008 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BRIEFING**

The Vice-Chancellor presented an update on the latest University developments (BG/22/11). Key points included:

- As a result of the war in Ukraine, the University had suspended its partnerships with Russian institutions. Current Ukrainian staff and students had been contacted personally with offers of support and there were no staff or students currently in either Ukraine or Russia.
- Industrial action was taking place, but with minimal impact. Another ballot was pending but no significant future impact was anticipated.
- Positive news had been received about research funding and the University was well placed to contribute to the recently announced GM Innovation Accelerator.
- Several high profile visitors had been hosted recently by the University including the Universities Minister, Executive Chair of Research England and Director of the Leverhulme Trust.
- Student applications for 2022-23 were buoyant and the University was currently performing better than the sector.
- Department subject reviews had commenced with Mathematics. Economics and English would follow in the summer term.
- The outcomes of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) were expected during week commencing 9 May 2022 and would be forwarded to the Board.
- An announcement was pending about an appointment to the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research.
- Letitia Jones was congratulated on her re-appointment as Students' Union President for 2022-23.

There was discussion about sector mood and the importance of maintaining a balanced and positive voice across senior management and Governor networks, HEI networks and through proactive communication with Government. The University would continue to communicate its key messages through appropriate channels and it was suggested that there could be an opportunity at the forthcoming Board Strategy Meeting to discuss the way the University projected itself.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

## **2009 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange and the Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange presented an update on progress made with the University's Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy (BG/22/12).

## **2009.1 Summary of Progress**

It was noted that good progress had been made over the past four years. Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, the University had continued to:

- increase the volume of the highest-quality work
- increase the value of applications made
- achieve its highest ever Field Weighted Citation (FWCI) value
- increase international co-authored papers, citations, and publications in top journals
- achieve the best-ever position within the KTP table
- submit the largest and highest quality ever return to the national research assessment exercise

## **2009.2 Road to 2030**

As part of the 'Road to 2030' it was planned to develop a new Research Strategy to ensure continued success in this area. It was noted that changes in the external environment would need to be acknowledged in the future approach, along with clear refinement, and strengthening appointments in key academic areas would ensure sustained progress. The contribution of the University's key enabling strategies, particularly International and Business Engagement, would also be essential to make the next step-change in RKE performance.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

## **2010 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

*Not for publication in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.*

## **2011 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE**

*Not for publication in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.*

## **2012 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT**

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor International and Chief People Officer presented the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Annual Report (BG/22/15), which provided an update on EDI activities over the past year, including how the University was delivering on its existing objectives and the provision of detailed equality data, which had been published in line with statutory requirements by 31 March 2022.

Governors welcomed the new format of the report, and the clarity provided by the case studies in the PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted good practice

and the progress made since the last report. The positive progress was commended and, although continued improvement was required, the Board was assured that the improved governance arrangements now in place, together with improved resourcing, would support this.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

## 2013 BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Chief Operating Officer presented a report (BG/22/16) outlining recommendations from the Nominations and Governance Committee relating to Board membership.

*Mr Mohammad Habeebullah withdrew for the meeting for the discussion on Committee appointments.*

RESOLVED

that the following be approved:

- (i) The appointment of Miles Rothbury as the new Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee with effect from 1 August 2022.
- (ii) The following Committee appointments:

Name	Committee
Mohammad Habeebullah	Audit and Risk Committee
Miles Rothbury	Nominations and Governance Committee

- (iii) The draft policy on duration of Governor terms of office.
- (iv) The appointment of Andy Forbes as an Independent Governor for a three-year term of office from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2025.
- (v) The appointment of Kate Green as a Co-opted Governor for a three-year term of office from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2025.

## 2014 ACADEMIC BOARD REPORT

A report (BG/22/17) was submitted providing an update on business conducted by the Academic Board at its meeting on 16 March 2022. Attention was drawn to the Statement of Compliance with the Concordat to support the Career

Development of Researchers, which was an agreement between stakeholders that sought to improve the employment and support for researchers and researcher careers in higher education in the UK. As a signatory to the Concordat, the University was required to provide an annual report to Universities UK with an update on plans for implementing the Concordat, including strategic objectives, measures of success and progress. The document also needed to be presented to the Board of Governors and made publicly available.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

## **2015 MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2022**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Board meeting held on 11 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **2016 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

A report (BG/22/18) was submitted setting out actions to be taken following the meeting of the Board held on 11 February 2022 and progress made with regard to those actions.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

## **2017 STUDENT JOURNEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME**

The Chief Operating Officer presented an update on the Student Journey Transformation Programme (BG/22/19). Governors welcomed the excellent progress made and the updates provided through briefings for relevant Committee Chairs and small group meetings with the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Information Officer. Significant material progress had been made in addressing the key points relating to relationships and delivery, and Governors were pleased to note the contractual agreements reached with regard to the assurance of quality.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

## **2018 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following reports were submitted for information:

- Audit and Risk Committee – 28 January 2022 (BG/22/20).
- Finance and Resources Committee – 9 March 2022 (BG/22/21).
- Nominations and Governance Committee – 9 March 2022 (BG/22/22)

RESOLVED

that the reports be received.

## **2019 SCHEDULE OF AGENDA ITEMS**

The Schedule of Agenda Items for 2021/22 (BG/22/23) was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

Signature of Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_